

ANOTHER COMPROMISED INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

September 11, 2002 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article) –

The following was sent to me by Dan French on September 7. I am thankful for his willingness to speak out and be counted in the battle for truth. I understand that this type of thing is very difficult. The one who tries to take a stand for the old paths and resists those who have launched into new ways is often counted an angry, judgmental, unloving, unreasonable, dangerous person.

Brother Cloud,

We met this summer at the Mid-coast Baptist Church in Brunswick, Maine. I was the gentleman who asked to speak with you about my church's use of CCM and whether or not I should go to another church. Your counsel to me was that you would "leave in a heartbeat." You also asked me to write to you and let you know what I decided to do. That is the reason for this letter.

My wife and I went home after the meeting in Brunswick torn as what to do. I was the leader of our church's bus ministry and an adult Sunday School teacher at our church, Twin City Baptist Temple, Lunenburg, MA. (Our pastor, A. Erven Burke, is the president of the Massachusetts Baptist Bible Fellowship.) We were working with many wonderful people and knew that separating from them would be difficult. On the other hand, the use of CCM in the church and the radio station that the church operates grieved us greatly. We have decided to leave the church and attend a church about 30 minutes from us. This new church is pastored by a friend of mine and he is a strong KJV preacher with very conservative music. Tomorrow will be our first Sunday there. Thank you for your counsel. I believe God has used you to get us out of a place where God didn't want us. Right after we made our decision to leave, God was gracious to us and confirmed that decision on at least three occasions.

When we talked, you expressed to me that your desire to warn people about the compromise that is out there. For that reason, I will tell you my story. Do what you wish with this information.

I grew up in Twin City Baptist Temple. I started attending in 1978 as a bus kid when I was only three. I got saved in 1985 at the age of 10. As a teen I grew in the Lord, and the Lord enabled me to pay my own tuition at the christian school that the church operates. After graduating from Twin City Christian School, I went to a secular college and also

began to attend a different Baptist church. I was gone from TCBT for about 5 years. When I left, the church was preaching hard against sin, had conservative music standards, KJV, and was a good N.T. Baptist church. After five years, the Lord moved me back to TCBT. I met my wife shortly after returning to the church. But the church was different. The church had huge screens up front and we were singing a lot of choruses along with the hymns. I did not care much for the choruses personally. The special music had a real "country music" flavor to it, labeled "southern gospel." The specials had a BEAT that they never had five years previous. The songs which the congregation sang were also very shallow in doctrine and were sort of depressing. I missed the hymns. I expressed my dismay to the pastor at this time and he used some reasoning with me that I couldn't refute at the time. So I tried to get on board and "like" the new music. A few months after I returned we got a new music director. He brought in a lot of new CCM choruses that the church had never sang before. Also, the radio station, WCMX, began playing a lot of the mainstream CCM. It was pure rock and roll, mixed with an occasional hymn and southern gospel number. Their moto was: "WCMX, your complete Christian MIX." The first thing I thought of was the MIXED MULTITUDE from the Old Testament. The direction the music went grieved me week in and week out. I began to pray about what to do. I was trying to discern whether I had a bad attitude (I was told this) or whether it was the Holy Spirit which was grieved. I started to search for something to read on the topic. The first books I came across were Jim Cymbala's books. These books helped me to assimilate for a little while, but eventually I was grieved again. The assistant pastor of the church around this time preached a message from Romans 14, and stated that music preferences were nothing to judge one another about, and that I just needed to have more grace in my heart to tolerate the new music. I tested this spirit too (I John 4:1-3) and found that I wasn't moved by this explanation either. Then I found your books on Rock & Roll and CCM under the Spotlight. Both of these books contained the answers I was searching for. They allowed me to be totally persuaded as to the character of this music. I came to the conclusion that music is "Ecumenical glue," and that it is the way the church is being leavened today. It was just after this, that I met you in Brunswick.

Two weeks before we met, I talked to my pastor, expressing my concerns with the direction things were going. HE GOT ANGRY AT ME! By the end of this conversation, I have to admit we were both pretty hot. He blamed my ideas on my reading of KJV only authors. He suggested that I need to read other to broaden my views. The issue I confronted him with was his own statements that our church would not allow a charismatic preacher in the pulpit (We had one in the pulpit at the graduation ceremony, and he later apologized to the church and vowed never to have that happen again). I commended him for his stand, but asked him when he was going to rid the pulpit of the charismatic MUSIC (Most of the choruses the church sings are published by Integrity Music). He told me that the SOURCE WAS NOT IMPORTANT. I strongly disagreed and we were in an argument. We cooled down a few days later and our relationship was fine. But after this incident I began to pray earnestly about whether I should separate my family from a situation that was not improving. Not only was CCM infiltrating, but the

adult Sunday School was using SS material from Bill Hybel's church, and was going to be using the Southern Baptist soul winning course FAITH, from Lifeway Publications. On the radio station, all the preachers were non-KJV (TCBT is still KJV): Chuck Swindoll, Kay Arthur (women preacher), Adrian Rodgers, Charles Stanley, Billy Graham reruns, D. James Kennedy, Chuck Colson, et. al. After speaking with you and through prayer, God led us out of this church. We made an appointment with the preacher in mid July and told him we would be leaving in September (We gave him a little notice so that he could find a replacement for us in the ministries we served in). We left on good terms and my wife and I have the peace that comes from God about this decision. The pastor didn't agree with our stand, and told us he feels he is quite conservative and doesn't see any problem with the church's direction. God confirmed our decision that following Sunday, when we had a visiting choir come to the church. It was a german choir from Trans-World Radio. Not only did the women of the choir wear pants on the stage, but they opened with a rock-and-roll song. My wife and I immediately walked out of the service. After the choir sang, a WOMAN got up and spoke for 45 minutes. A man finished up with 10 minutes of his own. This was precisely what we were talking about in the pastor's office. I was glad he could see a vivid example so soon after our talk with him.

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